

REMARKS

The office action of March 16, 2004, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the specification is objected to for containing various informalities.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the UK patent to Jones.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over WIPO International Publication to Textron.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the German patent to Bock.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to

Filion et al.

In connection with the Examiner's objections to the disclosure, applicant has amended the specification to update the status of the related patent application.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the disclosure is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the objection to the drawings, applicant has deleted the reference numeral 455 so that only the reference numeral 45 is used to designate the wall thickness.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claim, applicant has amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim now on file particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter

which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claim to address the instances of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim presently on file differs essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references. In the present invention the car body 40 is rigid in itself. Such a body is normally made of steel sheet. This body is dimensioned to be large enough so that it can be indented by an applied pressure. Without pressure the body has a slightly outwardly convex curve. Under pressure the body curves inwardly and actuates the switch behind the body sheet metal.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the UK reference to Jones discloses a door-mounted vehicle control switch. Jones uses not only a foam layer 42, but also embosses regions 10, 20. Additionally, the foam layer 42 is on a rigid panel 40. In the presently claimed invention, on the other hand,

there is a freely movable, uniformly shaped body that does not need to be specially shaped for actuating the switch. The large dimensioning of the body panel is sufficient for permitting the inward bowing or denting. With smaller dimensioning the body remains rigid so that an applied pressure does not bend the body. This is not disclosed by Jones.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The reference to Textron discloses an armrest electrical switch array. Textron does not disclose a rigid body panel, but instead discloses a soft feel composite. Furthermore, the switch is embedded in the soft feel composite. Textron does not disclose a construction in which the switch is behind the car body, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The German reference to Bock discloses a door switch that is

actuated through the elastic skin of the upper layer. Furthermore, Bock deals with a steering wheel and not a car body. A silicone rubber mat 7 is used that has projections directed against the switch. There is no uniform construction of the rubber mat 7. Additionally, in Fig. 3 the mat 7 has a specific construction on its inner side for the purpose of actuating the switch. Bock does not disclose the switch and body panel as recited in the claim presently on file.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Fillion et al. discloses an armrest electrical switch arrangement with a soft interior trim panel. Fillion et al. have a flexible skin 58 instead of a rigid body panel as in the presently claimed invention. Additionally, the skin 58 is heavily profiled with depressions 118, 120 in Fig. 5, or raised areas 62 or 80 in Figs. 3 and 4, or a toothed cross-section in Fig. 2. Furthermore, the contact elements 44 and the conductors 46 are provided in the flexible structure of Fig. 2. Fillion et al. do not disclose a rigid uniform layer without built-in components, as in the presently claimed invention.

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In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,


By 

Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 11, 2004.

By: 
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: June 11, 2004